

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	8:07CR349
)	
v.)	
)	
PABLO MARTINEZ-VENEGAS,)	PRELIMINARY ORDER
)	OF FORFEITURE
Defendant.)	
_____)	

This matter is before the Court upon the United States' Motion for Issuance of Preliminary Order of Forfeiture (Filing No. 54). The Court has reviewed the record in this case and finds as follows:

1. Defendant has entered into a Plea Agreement, whereby he has agreed to plead guilty to Counts I, II, III and IV of said Indictment. Count I charges the defendant with one count of distribution methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1)&(b)(1). Count III charges the defendant with one count of being an illegal alien in possession of a firearm, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(5). Count II of said Indictment sought the forfeiture, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853, of \$2,062.00 in United States currency on the basis it was used or was intended to be used to facilitate said controlled substance violation and/or was derived from proceeds obtained directly or indirectly as a result of the commission of said controlled substance violation. Count IV of said Indictment sought the forfeiture, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 924(d) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c), of a Smith and Wesson Model 659 semi-automatic 9mm handgun, serial number TAR8380, on the basis it was a firearm involved or used in the knowing commission of the offense charged in Count III.

2. By virtue of said plea of guilty, the defendant forfeits his interest in the subject properties, and the United States should be entitled to possession of said properties, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853, 18 U.S.C. § 924(d) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c).

3. The United States' Motion for Issuance of Preliminary Order of Forfeiture should be sustained. Accordingly,

IT IS ORDERED:

A. The United States' Motion for Issuance of Preliminary Order of Forfeiture is hereby sustained.

B. Based upon Counts II and IV of the Indictment and the defendant's plea of guilty, the United States is hereby authorized to seize the \$2,062.00 in United States currency and the Smith and Wesson Model 659 semi-automatic 9mm handgun, serial number TAR8380.

C. Defendant's interest in said properties is hereby forfeited to the United States for disposition in accordance with the law, subject to the provisions of 21 U.S.C. § 853(n)(1).

D. The aforementioned forfeited properties are to be held by the United States in its secure custody and control.

E. Pursuant to 21 U.S.C., § 853(n)(1), the United States of America forthwith shall publish at least once for three successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation, in the county where the subject properties are situated, notice of this Order, Notice of Publication evidencing the United States' intent to dispose of the properties in such manner as the Attorney General may direct, and notice that any person, other than the defendant, having or claiming a legal interest in any of the subject forfeited properties must file a Petition with the court within thirty days of the final publication of notice or of receipt of actual notice, whichever is earlier.

F. Said published notice shall state the Petition referred to in Paragraph E., above, shall be for a hearing to adjudicate the validity of the Petitioner's alleged interest in the properties, shall be signed by the Petitioner under penalty of perjury, and shall set forth the nature and extent of the Petitioner's right, title or interest in the subject properties and any additional facts supporting the Petitioner's claim and the relief sought.

G. The United States may also, to the extent practicable, provide direct written notice to any person known to have alleged an interest in the properties subject to this Order as a substitute for published notice as to those persons so notified.

H. Upon adjudication of all third-party interests, this Court will enter a Final Order of Forfeiture pursuant to 21 U.S.C., § 853(n), in which all interests will be addressed.

DATED this 9th day of June, 2008.

BY THE COURT:

/s/ Lyle E. Strom

LYLE E. STROM, Senior Judge
United States District Court